

Play area improvement Feedback – Woodfield Park, Harrogate

North Yorkshire Council is working to improve the quality of Woodfield Park play area in Harrogate. This report summarises the feedback received and identifies key priorities for improvement, helping to inform the future design and development of the play area to better meet the needs of children, families and the wider community.

The money (£25,031.35) for this project would come from the S106 money (Commutated Sums) and Capital funding from the former Harrogate district. Commuted Sums is money paid to North Yorkshire Council by property developers when providing residential properties within the council area.

North Yorkshire Council engaged with the public for feedback about Woodfield Park from Friday 8th August 2025 until Friday 19th September 2025, available via posters in and around the play area.

Headline Results

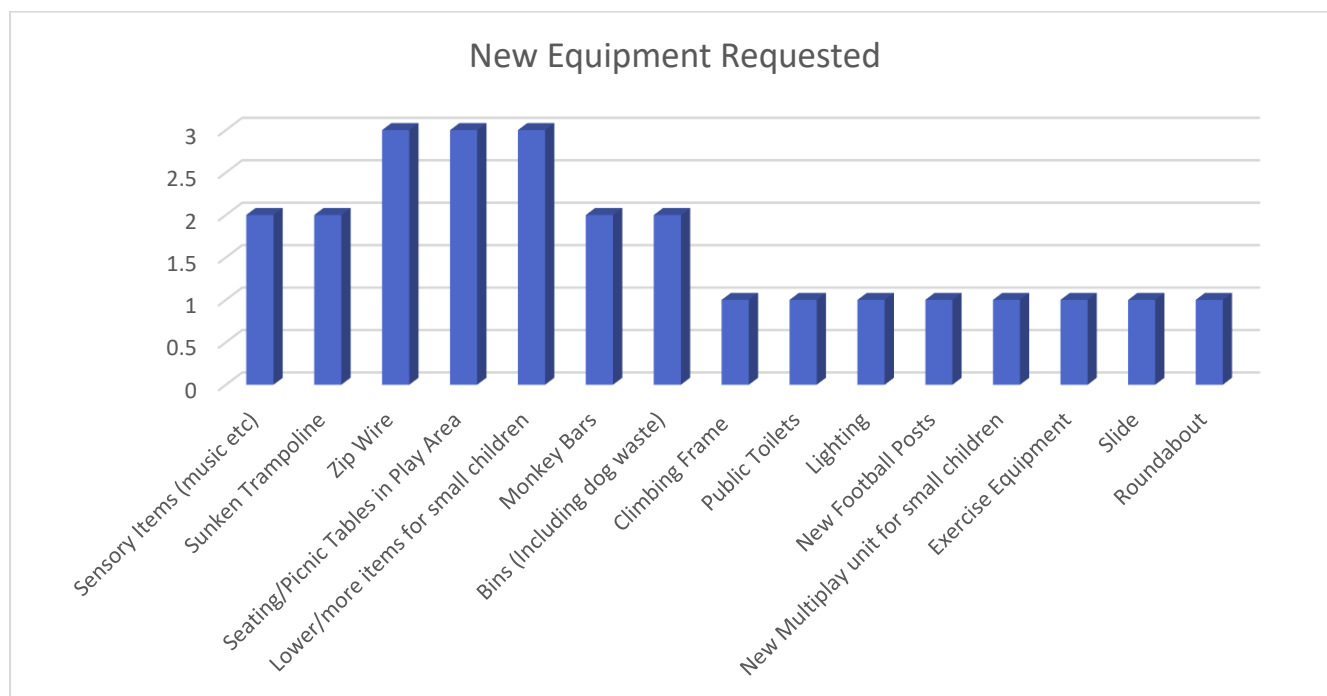
- 24 respondents took part.
- Respondents expressed a strong desire for more facilities for babies, toddlers and younger children, with requests for age-appropriate play equipment and safer play opportunities.
- Zip wires, larger slides, climbing frames, monkey bars and trampolines were among the most frequently requested new play features.
- There was significant support for improved swings, particularly lighter baby and toddler swings and more comfortable swing seats.
- Many respondents suggested relocating larger equipment, such as the climbing frame and tyre swing, to create a clearer separation between areas for younger and older children.
- Additional site improvements requested included seating and picnic tables, bins (including dog waste bins), lighting, public toilets, football posts and exercise equipment, helping to make the park more welcoming for a wider range of users.

The feedback demonstrates strong support for investment in Woodfield Play Area, with respondents highlighting the need for a wider range of play opportunities and improved facilities. The overwhelming priority is to provide more equipment for babies, toddlers and younger children, as many respondents felt the current provision is limited and does not adequately cater for this age group.

Residents expressed particular interest in new play features such as zip wires, larger slides, climbing frames, monkey bars, trampolines and sensory play equipment. There was also significant support for upgrading existing swings, with several respondents commenting that the current baby and toddler swings are difficult to use.

A recurring theme throughout the consultation was the desire to create clearer separation between equipment for younger and older children. Many respondents suggested relocating larger, more challenging equipment to the adjacent open space, allowing the enclosed play area to become a safer and more accessible environment for younger users and families.

In addition to new play equipment, respondents identified the need for supporting infrastructure, including seating, picnic tables, bins, lighting and other recreational facilities. Overall, the feedback indicates a desire for a more inclusive, modern and family-friendly play area that serves a wider range of ages and encourages increased use of the park by the local community.



Responses for new equipment indicate that resident's highest priorities are additional and improved play opportunities, particularly a zip wire, more facilities for younger children, and seating/picnic areas. There is also notable support for sensory play equipment, a sunken trampoline, monkey bars and improved site facilities such as bins.



Feedback relating to the existing play equipment focused primarily on improving accessibility and safety for younger children. The most common request was for lighter swing seats suitable for babies and toddlers. Respondents also highlighted concerns regarding the location and safety of the large climbing frame, with several suggesting it should be relocated away from the main play area or modified to improve safety.

Comments or suggestions for the play area?

Please new swings My children would love for there to be a bigger slide and a roundabout (like those at Knox Park). Also, a climbing frame like the Knox park would be good, which would include monkey bars. Maybe a sensory area for those with additional needs. And a bin, however I am aware of the potential issue with those due to the teenagers who spoil the space in the evening. This is a handy park for our house and is a good way for the children to blow off steam.
The swings at Woodfield Park have a square shape, and they're quite uncomfortable. they're also thick and heavy so it makes it difficult to swing on. they would be better if it was a rectangle, thin shape to sit on (like at most parks)
I think the playground area needs: making larger more bench seating (one is not enough!) more play equipment (for all ages) exercise equipment (for all ages including adults!)
I saw the notice about a refurbishment for Woodfield Park and wanted to add my views as there is still equipment there from when I was a child. It would benefit parents and children so much if there were to be improvements. We find that the slide and the 'baby swing' is the only piece of equipment that is appropriate for smaller children and have to travel by car to find other play parks such as the Harlow park and even the new Knaresborough park next to the swimming pool. The large climbing frame would benefit more being near the woodland area where the other equipment is for the older children. The equipment I have found my toddler and other smaller children benefit from (even parents) are things such as built in mini trampolines, slides and small climbing frames that don't have too many exits (parents are constantly running around slide that is currently there so stop younger children falling). Baby swings that are easier to push as the current ones are too low and take a lot of manpower especially when the other swings are too large for a 2/3 year old. Anything with imaginary play is always good too. I understand there has always been trouble with teenagers sitting in the park and vandalism. I have noticed there doesn't seem to be as much of this now there is a new place to sit near the woodland area and the benches were removed from the park. Even a new football post would benefit such a large field. Thank you for taking time reading my suggestions, I look forward to seeing the new improvements for the future.
Regarding Woodfield Play Area improvements would suggest there isn't enough for smaller children (1-6 years). Some items have been there since I was at school over 20 years ago! Perhaps split the area so the existing park is more for small children and the area near the woodland to have larger climbing frames, goals etc for bigger kids and teenagers. Also more bins, particularly for dog waste would be welcomed. Can we also finally have some street lighting as this are gets very dark in a night.
I am writing in response to your recent letter regarding improvements too Bilton play park. There needs to be more for babies & toddlers. During school hours many parents & grandparents bring their little ones but are restricted to the slide, the odd swing & nothing else. They aren't big enough for the see saw or the big climbing frame or tyre swing. After 2.30pm nothing can be used as secondary school children & older junior school children are using everything. Not a problem, maybe the climbing frame & tyre swing needs moving further down the park near what was the dog area where there is more room & not fenced in. Thus making the already fenced safe area for smaller infant children with prams etc.

Baby swings, a smaller slide & child friendly equipment would be amazing. I know it's hard with budgets etc, but it would be lovely for more families too use as a free clean space. At the moment the area is very well maintained but does attract people using it for their dogs too run around in & older children hanging about in at night. Other areas in Harrogate have some great play parks & would be lovely to see Bilton park have the same.
As a regular user of Woodfield playground, I would like to suggest monkey bars, a zip wire, lighter weight swings for babies/toddlers, as those available there at the moment are heavy to push, climbing frames, a trampoline, picnic tables and benches and a public toilet would be very good to have there too. I see that park being used by babies/toddlers, school age children and even teenagers, so a range of different age appropriate rides would be welcome.
I appreciate the opportunity to contribute with the development of Woodfield Park.
It's great to see the Woodfield park is getting a refurb.
We like that there is the open grass field and area outside the gated park for older children which helps to feel less intimidating. I think the wooden climbing frame would be better suited in that area as it's quite hard for anyone under 5.
It would be great to see some lower items that are easier for parents to lift children on and off of. And a climbing frame that only has 1 or 2 entrance/exits the current one has 3 which is difficult to manage if visiting the park on your own with your child.
2 existing parks of similar size that we like are the one at Knaresborough pool and the one by the water tower on Harlow Hill. We find these are diverse with a range of choice and varying sizes.
A slide that's not made for toddlers please that would be amazing (don't get rid of spinning disk thing !)
We saw the sign for improvement suggestions for Woodfield Park area. Feedback for improvements are a sunken trampoline/trampolines, seating in the play area (bench currently gone), zip line on field area, sensory items such as musical pipes etc.
I've had some further thoughts on what would make the park even better than it already is, come to think of it a zip line would be a good type of equipment to go in the park young children and even myself love zip lines and would be delighted to have one in their neighbourhood park. I would like to add to that by saying that maybe we could make some changes to the climbing frame it is a very high falling risk for young children who can walk by themselves but not protect themselves from falling of big obstacles.